Welcome, Class of 2004

The Weather

Today: Cloudy, 77°F (25°C) Tonight: Showers, 60°F (16°C) Tomorrow: Showers, 70°F (21°C) Details, Page 2

Slume 120, Number 31

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Wednesday, August 23, 2000

Freshmen **Attracted** By Baker Preference Forms

Give Baker Edge

By Naveen Sunkavally EDITOR IN CHIEF

More than one-quarter of incoming freshmen picked Baker House as their first-choice dormitory for temporary housing, according to statistics obtained from preference cards turned in over the summer.

Of the 1025 freshmen in the Class of 2004, 802 freshmen returned their housing preference forms, and 316 of those 802 chose Baker as their first choice. MacGregor House, the next most requested dorm, received 187 first-rank choic-

The freshmen made their selections on a preferences form included with a guide to residences that presented statistics about every living group and short descriptions submitted by each living group. On the form, students were able to rank the dorms for a lottery that would determine their temporary housing assignment during Orientation.

Baker tends to attract the typical crowd," said Andrew T. Singleton '02, rush chair of Baker. "On the outside, we seem like we're newly renovated [and] a very social dormitory.'

Singleton also attributed part of

Temporary Housing, Page 11

City Receptive to Grad Dorm Cambridge Councillors Question MIT on Parking, Open Space

By Mike Hall ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The Cambridge Planning Board reacted favorably yesterday to MIT's building permit application for a new graduate dormitory, virtually ensuring that the Institute will earn its approval to build the 400unit dorm. The new dorm will be located on the corner of Sidney and

vacant parking lot. An Interim Planning Overlay Permit (IPOP) is necessary for all buildings over 50,000 square feet in Cambridge. The dorm is scheduled to be built by August 2002.

Pacific Streets on what is now a

At the Board's public meeting last night, the Institute and Cambridge City Councilors discussed four key community concerns: available parking, open space, new retail stores, and the dorm's appear-

Parking for the new dorm residents was the central concern of Cambridgeport citizens at the meeting. Following construction, MIT





Cambridge City Councillor Henrietta Davis (left) and Graduate Dormitory Project Director Michael K. Owu '86 (right) address a large crowd of graduate students and Cambridge citizens who attended last night's Planning Board meeting.

will have 300 available parking spots above and below ground. Senior real estate officer and project director Michael K. Owu '86 predicted that dorm residents will use 100 spaces, leaving the remaining 200 for residents across campus and possible retail consumer use.

At a community meeting last Thursday, Cambridge City Council-

Graduate Dorm, Page 11

Bank Options for the Savvy Student

By Jon Sheffi and Laura McGrath Moulton

STAFF REPORTERS

This article is the first in a series intended to introduce freshmen to life in Boston and at the Institute. Future installments will deal with other necessities of life at MIT, including long distance telephone services, dining options, and purchasing textbooks.

The greater Boston area is home to a number of banking options. Although students are likely to be exposed first to Fleet Bank, which has an exclusive right to open new accounts in the Student Center, several other financial establishments exist nearby, including Cambridge Trust, Citizens Bank, Sovereign Bank New England, and Wainwright Bank.

Cambridge Trust

Cambridge Trust Company is smaller than Fleet, with offices in University Park and Kendall Square. They offer an ATM Convenience account with no minimum balance or monthly fee. Students can apply for overdraft protection.

Customers can write up to eight checks per monthly cycle with no charge. Each additional check is \$3.00. Unlimited ATM, point of sale, and debit transactions are allowed. Customers over eighteen can obtain MasterCard credit cards.

Cambridge Trust is also part of the SUM network, a consortium of smaller banks throughout lower New England. Customers of banks belonging to the SUM network incur no charges while using SUM ATMs. However, the ATMs on main campus belong to Fleet, which does not belong to SUM.

Cambridge Trust allows exclusively web-based online banking at \$5.00 per month plus \$0.40 per bill paid. The bank offers two months of free online banking.

Citizens Bank

Citizens Bank's closest branch to campus is on Sidney Street. Citizens Bank offers several checking and savings account options.

Combined Checking and Saving are linked accounts. Customers must keep \$3500 in the combined accounts or \$750 in checking and \$250 in savings respectively to

Banking, Page 10

Institute Welcomes Freshmen

'New Beginnings' is **Orientation Theme**

By Laura McGrath Moulton

By three o'clock this afternoon, all 1,025 members of the class of 2004 will be on campus, ready to



embark on a week filled with Orientation activities.

from residence selection to a talk on love and sex to the famous Egg

"The theme this year is 'New Beginnings," said Timothy E. Mosehauer, coordinator of freshman programs. As an example of this theme, Mosehauer said that new Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict will be present at the welcome dinner and new Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine will speak at Convocation.

Mosehauer offered some advice to freshmen seeking to navigate the wealth of events. "Talk to as many people as you can and get the most out of everything," he said.

Vest's speech opens Orientation

After President Charles M. Vest's Convocation speech in Kresge Auditorium tomorrow morning, freshmen will spend the day meeting with administrators and faculty and checking out alternative programs such as the Integrated Studies Program, the Experimental Study Group, and Concourse.

The wellness fair, called "MIT: It Does a Body Good," will take place Thursday afternoon. "The wellness fair will be bigger and better this year," Mosehauer said. Noting that it takes place in the midst of an intense academic orientation, he said the fair would help show "that there's a lot more to MIT than just

Friday features a picnic on Killian Court followed by the Core Blitz and the Academic Expo. After dinner in Cambridge and Boston with Orientation leaders, freshmen will attend a evening Residence Midway.

On Saturday morning, all new students will attend a talk on relationship issues called "Sex Matters." After Killian Kickoff at 12:30 p.m., residence selection and rush will begin. Students will enter the dormitory lottery starting 4:00 p.m. Sunday, with FSILG bids being extended beginning Monday morn-

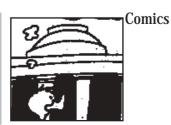
The following Wednesday after-

Orientation, Page 9



Marjory Bravard '02 (red) struggles to keep the ball away from defender Darlene Utter '04 during a scrimmage yesterday. The field hockey team hopes its five new freshmen and three new upperclassmen will help rebuild the team after losing seven seniors.

Beginning with today's issue, *The Tech* will publish daily through the end of Orientation, Aug. 31.



Jason Harmon Wasfy urges students to explore humanities at MIT beyond the writing requirement.

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Page 2 THE TECH August 23, 2000

WORLD & NATION

TV Stations Pull Democrat Ads After Threats from Republicans

Responding to Republican threats, television stations in three key congressional districts have pulled Democratic attack ads on the grounds that they distorted the GOP candidates' voting records.

Both the cable company Comcast in New Jersey and four network affiliates in Lexington, Ky., have decided in the past week to stop airing ads funded by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee questioning GOP candidates' votes on education bills. Two Mississippi television stations have temporarily suspended a similar ad targeting an Arkansas Republican's stand on prescription drugs.

In one ad, for example, Democrats charge former representative Dick Zimmer, R-N.J., "has never voted for a single education spend-- not one," though he supported three separate education measures. In Kentucky, they criticized GOP Rep. Ernie Fletcher for voting "to cut over a billion dollars in education," though he had in fact supported funding increases that fell a billion dollars short of what President Clinton had requested.

Clinton to Approve \$1.3 Billion Colombia Anti-Drug Aid Package

President Clinton plans to sign a waiver authorizing distribution of a \$1.3 billion aid package to help the Colombian government fight drug traffickers even though it has not met all the human rights conditions set by Congress, administration officials said Tuesday.

The decision comes one week before Clinton is to make a one-day visit to Colombia to demonstrate his support for President Andres Pastrana's efforts to combat the country's drug trade, which is responsible for 90 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States. Officials said Clinton could formally sign the waiver as early as Wednesday — the final step in a year-long debate over how best to assist the Pastrana government.

Congress approved Clinton's request for Colombia aid in July on a bipartisan basis despite the opposition of human rights groups concerned about human rights abuses by the Colombian military. The U.S. plan calls for more than \$1 billion to train and equip the Colombian army and police forces, and includes delivery of 18 Black Hawk helicopters and 42 Huey 2 helicopters. The package also provides money aimed at promoting human rights programs, judicial reform and economic development.

Second Study Links Gene-Altered Corn, Monarch Butterfly Deaths

THE WASHINGTON POST

A second study has found that pollen from genetically engineered corn plants can harm monarch butterflies.

About 20 percent of monarch larvae died after being exposed to pollen from corn genetically engineered to produce a pesticide that had blown onto nearby plants that the monarch caterpillars eat, the study found. The finding reignites a heated scientific and regulatory debate over whether biotech crops in general, and the engineered corn in particular, pose heightened risks for the environment, and whether federal authorities have appropriately addressed those risks.

'This takes the monarch research a step further," said John Obrycki of Iowa State University, who conducted the new study. "We had lab research showing the effect, and now we have a modified field study that shows an effect as well."

But both the biotech industry and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cautioned against making conclusions based on the study, which looked at the effects of corn modified to produce a pesticide called Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt).

Summer Winds Down

Orientation over the next few days will greet incoming freshmen with uncertain skies. Rain will threaten over the new few days, becoming more likely as Orientation continues. However, skies should be free of rain for Killian Kickoff, on Saturday.

The Boston Red Sox will meet the Anaheim Angels today. After an 11-4 pounding at the hands of Angels yesterday, the fate of the Sox, much like the skies, is also uncertain. They are currently third in the AL wildcard, behind Oakland and Cleveland. On a more positive note, however, the Sox have won seven of their last ten games. One can only hope that this year will be the magical one.

Today: Partly cloudy through early afternoon. Then cloudy with a chance of showers. High 75-80°F (24-27°C). South wind 10 to 20

Tonight: Showers likely, with a chance of thunderstorms. Low near 60°F (16°C). Chance of rain 60 percent.

Thursday: Showers likely, with a chance of thunderstorms. High near 70°F (21°C). Chance of rain 60 percent.

Extended forecast:

Thursday night: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Low in the upper 50° Fs (13-15 $^{\circ}$ C).

Friday: Partly cloudy. High in the upper 70°Fs (24-27°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy. Low near 60°F (16°C) and high in the

lower 80°Fs (28-30°C). Sunday: Partly cloudy. Low in the lower 60°Fs (16-18°C) and high in the upper 70°Fs (24-27°C).

Submarine Crew's Families Seek Answers From Putin

Richard Boudreaux

MURMANSK, RUSSIA

Grieving relatives of the 118 seamen who died aboard the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk poured out their rage and pain in a heated meeting Tuesday night with President Vladimir V. Putin at a closed military base near the site of the tragedy.

Putin, struggling to recover from his worst political crisis since he was sworn in last May, took the desperate step of confronting the fury of the bereaved — a rare step for a Russian political leader.

After promising compensation and housing, Putin fielded difficult questions during a 90-minute meeting carefully controlled to keep out all media except the pro-Kremlin RTR state television network.

'It was a tough meeting. Everyone wanted to know how come our children ended up in this tin can for the paltry money that they're paid," said Nadezhda Tylik, whose son was aboard the Kursk.

"People wanted to know how the government is planning to lift that submarine where our children and husbands are," said Tylik, whose and 11-month-old daughter.

The families also expressed anger at Putin's decision to stay on vacation for nearly a week after the submarine went down in the Barents Sea on Aug. 12. And they criticized the government's failure to call in foreign rescuers until last Wednesday. The meeting hall was crammed, with the crowd estimate at just under 1,000 people. Among them were about 350 relatives of Kursk crew members.

Tylik's account of the meeting, which was held at a closed naval base in Vidyayevo in northern Russia, was backed by Russian navy Capt. Alexander Zhuravlyov and RTR journalist Ivan Konovalov, both of whom attended.

Since his return from vacation Saturday, Putin has sought to control the political and public relations damage facing his government.

The large crowd that gathered Tuesday soon after 4 p.m. was forced to wait more than five hours in the rain before the meeting finally started. In a telephone interview after the Tuesday night meeting, Tylik said she was doubtful that the money and housing promised by Putin will be delivered.

confined to just empty words," she

Putin knew he was flying in for a potentially explosive meeting after a series of emotional confrontations between Russian officials and grieving relatives in recent days.

Zhuravlyov said he believed Putin had found the necessary words to comfort people and that relatives and residents walked out of the meeting with a sense of certainty and completion.

"There was also bitterness on their faces, the bitterness for their lost loved ones," the navy captain

The mood across the country Tuesday was somber. People were lighting candles in churches. Television footage showed one man sitting in a gutter in St. Petersburg, weeping inconsolably, with a woman awkwardly touching his back to offer comfort. The Russian Cabinet stood for a minute's silence to mark the tragedy, in which 55 children lost their fathers. Television stations Tuesday displayed the names of the dead and showed old footage of the 500-foot Oscar II-class submarine sailing out of port, its crew at atten-

Officials Say Short Circuit To Blame in TWA 800 Explosion

By Eric Malnic and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

WASHINGTON

The center fuel tank explosion that tore TWA Flight 800 apart and hurled it into the sea probably was ignited by a short circuit somewhere else in the plane that transferred excess voltage into the tank, federal officials said Tuesday. Although the blast and crash off Long Island on July 17, 1996, destroyed most of the direct evidence of exactly what happened, there is plenty of circumstantial evidence that such a short circuit occurred, National Transportation Safety Board officials said.

After four years of painstaking investigation, board experts have ruled out the possibility — still promulgated by some — that a bomb or a missile caused the crash that killed all 230 aboard the Paris-bound Boeing 747. Two days of hearings on the crash will conclude Wednesday

with the board's official conclusions about what caused the crash. There seemed little doubt Tuesday what those conclusions will be.

Bernard S. Loeb, director of the agency's Office of Aviation Safety, told an audience of aviation industry representatives, news reporters and relatives of those who died in the crash that the agency's investigation "leads to the inescapable conclusion that the cause of the in-flight breakup of Flight 800 was a fuel/air explosion inside the center tank." The safety board had discussed such an explosion in a report issued five months after the crash.

Loeb said that exhaustive research and testing have ruled out a number of possible ignition sources, including lightning, static electricity and radiation from equipment like radar, cell phones and laptop computers. Also ruled out was a short in the electrical system that measures the amount of fuel in the tank.

because it operates at voltages too low to generate a spark that could have touched off the blast.

Much more likely, Loeb said, is a scenario in which a high-voltage wire somewhere else in the plane shorted out one of the low-voltage wires in the fuel-measuring system. He said such a short circuit could have sent high voltage surging through the low-voltage wires to the tank, generating a spark large enough to set off the explosion.

"We cannot be certain that this, in fact, occurred. But of all the ignition scenarios we considered, this scenario is the most likely," Loeb

NTSB engineer Robert Swain said that a number of factors support this theory. He noted that inspections of the 25-year-old plane that crashed and several other old aircraft turned up high-voltage wires on which the insulation was cracked and frayed.

King Abdullah of Jordan Meets **Barak in First Visit to Israel**

By Lee Hockstader THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

It is not every day that an Israeli prime minister hosts an Arab monarch in Tel Aviv, treats him to full a honor guard at the airport and takes his smiling guest to shake hands with girls on the beach. But that is how Ehud Barak, the Israeli leader, welcomed Jordan's King Abdullah Tuesday on his first visit to the Jewish state.

Six years after the two neighbors signed a peace agreement and 27 years after their last war, ties between Jordan and Israel are not exactly chummy.

Few Jordanians cross the Jordan River to visit Israel, and Israelis who travel in Jordan are generally careful not to advertise their nation-

At the official level, though, the two countries' leaders project an image of neighborly normalcy through frequent meetings, phone conversations and expressions of mutual appreciation.

Thus it was that Abdullah, who ascended to the Hashemite throne on the death of his father King Hussein 18 months ago, caused barely a ripple of public excitement in his visit to the Jewish state Tuesday.

"It's hard to believe," wrote Eitan Haber, an aide to the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth. "Only five years ago, thousands upon thousands took to their roofs to catch a glimpse of King Hussein's plane crossing, for the first time, above our heads. Today's routine visit is, perforce, the essence of that peace.'

The king's visit to Tel Aviv was brief, and it represented just half his day's itinerary.

Before flying to Israel, Abdullah touched down in the Palestiniancontrolled West Bank city of Ramallah, where he met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Arafat seemed so glad to see the young monarch that he ran about 20 yards to embrace him.

Jordanian officials accompanying the king reiterated Jordan's longstanding support of Arafat's right to declare a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"Jordan rejects foreign sovereignty - Israeli sovereignty over the (Islamic) holy sites," said Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdullah al-Khatib. "This is an Arab and Islamic right that should be protect-

Federal Reserve Leaves Short– Term Interest Rates Untouched

By Peter G. Gosselin

INGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Federal Reserve policy-makers decided Tuesday to keep short-term interest rates at 6.5 percent for a third month running, saying the United States' economic growth is beginning to slow to a more sustainable pace.

Although the Fed included a stern warning about the risk of resurgent inflation, policy-makers suggested they think they are finally getting a handle on the danger of higher prices. That's a change from earlier this year when officials said the economy seemed to be shrugging off Fed-engineered rate hikes and continuing to boom beyond its

limits

In a statement explaining its decision, the Federal Open Market Committee said recent economic statistics indicate that "expansion of aggregate demand is moderating toward a pace closer to the rate of growth of the economy's potential to produce."

The central bank's policy-making body also said improvements in productivity, or output per worker, are raising the economy's "potential growth rate as well as containing costs and holding down underlying price pressures."

The Fed decision, which was expected, leaves the federal funds rate — the rate at which commercial banks make short-term loans to each

other — at its highest level in nine years. Since June of last year, the Fed has raised the rate six times by a total of 1.75 percentage points. Those moves have driven up the cost of borrowing for everything from cars to capital equipment.

Tuesday's decision was widely interpreted as signaling that, absent unexpected change, the Fed will sit out the rest of the presidential election campaign and perhaps the remainder of the year.

Investors greeted the action tepidly. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 59.34 points, or 0.5 percent, to 11,139.15, while the tech-heavy NASDAQ Composite Index inched up 5.12 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,958.27.

Militiamen Threaten East Timor Peace Despite UN Peacekeepers

By Rajiv Chandra Sekaran THE WASHINGTON POST

LABURAI, EAST TIMO

Elidio de Andrade and 10 of his neighbors were trudging through dense tropical forest in the hills behind this hamlet one afternoon earlier this month when nine scruffy men decked out in camouflage and brandishing automatic rifles jumped out of the underbrush and forced the villagers to the ground.

The men started asking questions: Were there any U.N. peace-keepers in the area? How often did they patrol the hills? What kinds of weapons did they have? Then they moved on to threats, boasting that they had thousands of armed men ready to take on the peacekeepers

and promising to kill the villagers if they reported the encounter to the peacekeepers or police.

De Andrade has no doubt who the armed men were — some of the same militiamen who almost destroyed East Timor after the people of the territory voted overwhelmingly last Aug. 30 for independence from Indonesia. In the past three weeks, more than 150 militiamen with ties to the Indonesian military have infiltrated East Timor from Indonesian-controlled western Timor in an apparent effort to attack peacekeepers and terrorize civilians, according to senior military officials in the U.N. peacekeeping operation.

The steady flow of returning

militiamen, and the inability of peacekeepers to stop them, is raising the prospect that East Timor, which has been relatively peaceful since international troops arrived last fall, will have to combat a long-term guerrilla insurgency opposing independence.

"We are now facing a number of highly motivated armed groups up against us," said Lt. Col. Martin Dransfield, commander of a New Zealand army battalion assigned to guard a large swath of southwestern East Timor.

The U.S. ambassador to Indonesia, Robert Gelbard, warned that a new civil war could break out unless the Indonesian military cracks down on the militiamen.

U.N. Handling of Kosovo Justice Criticized by Serbs and Albanians

LOS ANGELES TIMES

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, YUGOSLAVIA

The United Nations, one of the world's most vocal champions of human rights, is facing mounting complaints that it has violated the most basic rules of justice in Kosovo.

Fourteen months after the United Nations took charge of the Serbian province, both Serbs and ethnic Albanians are accusing its criminal courts of excessive delays, bias among judges, widespread witness tampering and other serious violations of the right to a fair trial.

Defending the world body, spokeswoman Susan Manuel said that the United Nations is trying to make the local justice system work but that a boycott by Serbian prosecutors and judges — compounded by a chronic shortage of foreign aid money and experts — is making a difficult job worse.

In addition, the foreign-led U.N. police force has complained that frequent intimidation of witnesses and court officials makes it extremely difficult to investigate and prosecute crimes.

Vladimir Vucetic is one of several prisoners whom Serbs point to as evidence that the United Nations is failing to ensure impartial justice in Kosovo. The mentally disabled Serbian teen-ager has spent 11 months in a U.N. prison awaiting trial. He was charged with genocide on Sept. 27, 1999, after an ethnic Albanian woman accused him of being in a group of Serbs who set fire to three houses in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica.

Counsel's Report Exonerates Babbitt in Casino Decision

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Independent counsel Carol Elder Bruce Tuesday issued her final report clearing Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt of wrongdoing in the rejection of a proposed Indian gambling casino in Wisconsin and saying she found no evidence that the decision was "criminally corrupted" by political influence.

The 484-page report details the reasons for Bruce's decision last year to wrap up her probe without seeking the any indictments. Among other things, it concludes that Babbitt played "no meaningful role" in the casino deliberations and cites his "strong reputation for integrity, truth and veracity in the community."

Bruce, who spent more than \$5.6 million in her investigation, said that Babbitt gave "inconsistent and puzzling testimony" to a Senate committee about the casino decision.

But she said that evidence was insufficient to prove that he committed perjury.

The controversies stemmed from a plan by Croixland Properties Inc. and three Chippewa tribes to install an off-reservation casino on the site of a failing greyhound track in Hudson, Wis.

The hypnotist performs at MIT again this weekend... "Billy Madison" is available at Blockbuster...

You only get one chance to see the last episode of TV's most talked about program...

Survivor Finale

Tonight

8pm



Student Center
Room 483
Free snacks

All students, faculty and staff are invited to watch the finale on a 61" big screen TV with free refreshments.

Or you could just stay home and watch it alone:





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OPINION



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Welcome, Class of 2004

Welcome to the Class of 2004.

As you begin your MIT experience, you will encounter a campus in the midst of transition. Now is an exciting and challenging time to be a student at MIT. Not only will your years at

Editorial

MIT shape you, but you will have ample opportunities to use your gifts and talents to shape the future of MIT.

Most notably, the impending storm of residence changes still looms over campus. The clock is ticking on the residence selection period that you will experience over the next week. Upon completion of the new Vassar Street undergraduate dormitory, the ability of freshmen to choose to live in a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group will cease. As these changes to the undergraduate housing structure evolve, graduate students are dealing with crises of their own — delayed construction of graduate housing, obscene rents in Boston and Cambridge, and fear that space currently used to house graduate students will be converted to undergraduate space.

As you experience residence selection you will get you first taste of this significance of living groups at MIT, of how critical housing is to the MIT experience, and how frightening housing changes are to many students.

But the housing program is not the only institution under-

going change at MIT. The campus is in the midst of a physical facelift as well. The Stata Center is now under construction, a new athletic facility is planned, and renovations continue across campus. MIT's building boom means you will see your share of dust and construction closures over the next four years

The MIT administration also welcomes several new faces this year. The appointments of Larry Benedict as Dean of Student Life and Robert Redwine as Dean of Undergraduate Education brings fresh blood into MIT's leadership. Whether these new deans serve as effective advocates for MIT's students will soon be seen and depends in no small part on the relationships they form with a gun-shy student population.

As these changes swirl around you, do not let the opportunity to add your input pass you by. Keep a focus on the people of MIT. Stay informed on the issues and the debates, from the MIT housing system to the presidential campaign. Expand your horizons and share your opinions. Don't allow yourself, like many students at MIT, to become buried in classes and UROPs, allowing the rest of life and humanity to pass you by. Take up your orientation challenge to "evolve with the best" and make MIT the campus you want it to be.

Once again, welcome to MIT, and we hope you enjoy your wild ride.



Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissents are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and **editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and must be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions must be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and **cartoons** must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of *The Tech*. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. The Tech can be found on the World-Wide Web at http://the-tech.mit.edu.

Beyond the Writing Requirement Students' Personal Initiative The Best Way to Improve Communication

Guest Column Jason Harmon Wasfy

Mumbling speakers, incoherent presenters, confusing writers. To many in the world of business, science, and technology, the idea of hiring an MIT student conjures up images of incompetent communication. Despite boasting often masterful technical and problem-solving skills, too many MIT undergraduates leave the Institute without the writing and speaking abilities crucial to advancement and leadership in the private sector.

That's why the faculty and some Institute Committees have formulated the new Communications Initiative. In its final year of the transition phase, the initiative is slated to usurp the old Writing Requirement next fall for the class of 2005. Unlike the Writing Requirement, the Communications Initiative will place writing and discussion squarely in classrooms, not only in HASS subjects but in science and engineering courses as well. The Writing Requirement merely evaluates writing competency — it does little to help students achieve it. And the Writing Requirement fails to include public speaking. The well thoughtout Communications Initiative will address many of these deficiencies.

But no faculty initiative will solve students' communication woes on its own. We who serve on Institute Committees and who work in student government can certainly reformulate requirements, but we can't change how individual students choose to approach their undergraduate experience. Students need to take their communication skills into their

A big part of the problem is that few people embrace tasks or activities that they find difficult. Entering MIT students rate among the brightest technical wizards in our nation and the world. They come from high schools where electives are few, and English and history form the backbone of the curriculum. Why push oneself to bolster speaking and writing skills after doing just that throughout high school, especially when one's interest and ability lie elsewhere?

The answer is that powerful speaking and clear writing empowers people, in any field. Good communication makes better citizens, because they are more able to clearly articulate ideas about society and individual lives.

And perhaps more enticingly, good communication allows engineers, businesspeople, and scientists to direct and inspire co-workers, leading to promotion and more responsibility. Writing memos to a boss with the spelling mistakes and grammar flaws of a seventh grader looks unprofessional, no matter how quickly the writer can analyze a distillation column or predict an economic fore-

To more directly empower themselves, MIT students need to embrace communications challenges. Too often, students thumb through the HASS Guide, picking out HASS-D courses mainly because of skimpy reading and writing loads. Some students walk into the HASS office asking for advice about HASS courses, having already restricted their choice to less time-consuming 9-unit courses. Students should consider choosing HASS and HASS-D courses because they are challenging or particularly interesting, not because they are easy. The hard work now will pay off dividends later with a better

Reading good national newspapers and magazines also is a solid step towards greater empowerment. Many national publications provide insightful analysis on local, national, and world issues, and their pages often exemplify crisp, straightforward prose. Writing clearly requires reading good writing, and students looking to improve their communication skills would serve themselves well by exposing themselves to solid models of clear writ-

Students should also ask questions and promote discussion during lecture and recitation. That makes class time more interesting and less didactic, and is a wonderful opportunity to practice concise, clear speaking in front of a large group. I've found that MIT students are reluctant to speak up in class, even when they don't understand the material that they know that an upcoming exam will cover, and the professor is begging with wide eyes for students to speak up if they don't understand. Speaking up in class not only helps lecturers gauge how well the class understands the material and allows students more explanation on difficult points, but also makes good sense for improving communication skills.

Last spring, at a meeting of faculty and students who serve on Institute Committees. President Vest called the Communications Initiative the most noteworthy of legislation coming out of the faculty this year. I agree. But meaningful, positive change in the communications skills of MIT graduates will only come from students taking the initiative to develop and refine the tools that will be so crucial to their futures. That self-motivated initiative is worth more than all the legislation the faculty could ever pass.

Jason Harmon Wasfy, a member of the Class of 2001, is the student representative on the HASS Oversight Committee.

The Next Four Years

Michael J. Ring

Freshmen, welcome to the next four years of your life.

Perhaps that's a scary thought for you, or maybe it's a wonderfully liberating truth. But whether you surmise MIT will be your friend or foe, it is now your reality. And there's certainly a lot to appreciate about MIT.

First and foremost, starting today, remember that in a growing number of matters you are your own boss. You are making decisions for yourself instead of being dictated to by a faceless bureaucracy.

Freedom is a cherished MIT value, but it does not come to you without a price. The Orientation you are about to experience is a dizzying array of activities and events to assist you in making the very choices you must now soon make. Where to live, what courses to take, what activities to participate in - these and many more questions are about to consume your next week and beyond. Orientation will grind on you for the next week, but upperclassmen will tell you almost universally that a week of stress pays extraordinary dividends in the ability to structure your life as you see fit.

A stringent faith in your ability to choose how to live your life sets MIT apart from other schools. Think about your high school friends going to other colleges. Most of them will have assigned dorms and roommates, a mandatory meal plan, or perhaps even assigned classes.

Not you. You can search out your own dormitory and rank your preferences — there are no guarantees you'll get your number one choice but virtually everybody gets one of their top three choices. You can pledge a fraternity, sorority, or independent living group (or FSILGs, as they are commonly known). You can eschew the Lobdell fare for LaVerde's or Star Market. And while MIT has its core requirements, different "flavors" of courses like physics and calculus allow flexibility there as well.

But remember too that as things stand currently you will be one of the last classes to enjoy the level of freedom afforded to you this freshman year. You have surely heard by now of Scott Krueger and his tragic demise. You certainly know that the FSILGs are under heavy scrutiny from the Institute, the local governments, and the media. And once a new dormitory is completed on Vassar Street, incoming students will lose the right to live off-campus in FSILGs during their freshman year.

Students and administrators will argue over whether this plan is the least restrictive action which can be taken in the face of Krueger's death. Most students argue that the freshmenon-campus edict imperils the future of the FSILG system. But others make a valid argument by noting that failure of the Institute to take any action only invites the TV cameras and political diatribes to continue, which ultimately would lead to even more disastrous consequences for FSILGs. Whichever course of action you believe would be more detrimental to your freedom to live in FSILGs is yours to decide.

And with that comes my last bit of advice don't be afraid to complain. If you don't like what's going on, raise hell with the administration. Join the protests and make sure the gang in Building 3 knows exactly how you feel. Make sure, however, that you know what your goals are and why you want to achieve them. Whining vaguely about campus conditions without offering solutions will not get you attention. Proposing insightful solutions and demonstrating how a certain plan would only exacerbate students' problems might just win you a few converts. Sitting in silence and grudgingly accepting plans from above is not the MIT way — articulating your own interests and concerns is.

Again, welcome to MIT, and welcome to the next four years of your life.

Evidence of America's Guiltlessness

Michael J. Borucke

After reading Kris Schnee's column, "No More Guilt, No More Checks" [August 9], I was appalled at the attempt by the international community to extract money from the United States of America. It seems to be a commonly held view that, for the most part, the United States had nothing to do with the war in Rwanda. So the question becomes, what right does the United Nations have in asking the United States for reparations?

When I investigated this call for reparations further, my feelings were

In June of 1994, when only about 500,000 Rwandan people had died from the conflict, a spokesperson for the State Department, Christine Shelley, referred to the conflict as an "act of genocide" instead of "genocide." Now, only 500,000 people were dead at that time. You can't just casually label an act of

aggression like this as "genocide." Genocide is a very serious word, and without all the information available, it's obvious that the United States of America didn't feel comfortable in using the term genocide.

Since this conflict in Rwanda wasn't technically genocide, Madeleine Albright, then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, blocked a UN peacekeeping mission from going to Rwanda. The Organization for African Unity report that Schnee referred to in his column says that this mission could have easily stopped the killing, but then, why would an ambassador of the United States stop this mission? It just doesn't make sense. She must have thought that the peace mission wouldn't have been appropriate, and so she did the cost-effective thing by pursuing a mandate to prevent the mission. I know I wouldn't want to waste the time, money, and energy of sending in a peacekeeping mission if it weren't necessary. Of course, now that the United States has gathered sufficient information, the United States has done the honorable thing in recognizing the conflict as genocide. What I don't understand is why Madeleine Albright and President Clinton have apologized for not allowing troops into Rwanda. It's not their fault for not knowing what was going on in Rwanda.

been a request that the debt Rwanda owes to First World nations be canceled. Cancel the debt? No way! The survivors of the so-called

In the aftermath of the genocide, there has

Just because we have installed fascist governments all over the world... we shouldn't have to shoulder the burden of every civil war, much less be held responsible for acts of nature.

> genocide have to be held responsible for this debt. I don't care if the government that borrowed the money is the same government responsible for the "genocide." And I don't care if Rwanda is one of the poorest countries in the world; the government shouldn't have taken out the loan if the Rwandan people weren't going to be alive to pay it back. I for one don't want to be paying off the debt of Rwanda when that money can be used for the military budget instead.

> The conflict in Rwanda is just one example of the current trend of pointing the finger at the United States. East Timor is another example. Last summer, out of nowhere, this country I have never heard of before voted for independence from Indonesia. Apparently, the Indonesian military killed one-third of the population of East Timor. Fine, so they get their independence. But there are some who

claim the United States is somehow responsible for the genocide in East Timor. I'm not sure how one can come to this conclusion: I don't know of one incident where an American soldier killed someone in East Timor. So the United States sold billions of dollars worth of weapons to Indonesia; one must remember that suppliers of guns don't kill people, people kill people. But implicating the United States of America in the atrocities is ridiculous. The United States government showed tremendous character by putting an end to the atrocities after only twenty-five years. If that doesn't

prove how free of guilt our government is...

As for the global warming issue, no offense to the majority of scientists, but there is just too much conflicting evidence to say definitively that humans, let alone those in the First World. are responsible for the current increase in temperature. Sure, the United States of America alone uses 50 percent of the

world's resources, but until science can tell me definitively that my consumption habits are having a negative effect on the planet, I think the only reasonable course of action is to continue consuming at the present rate. Actually, even if it is found out that humans are responsible for global warming, I think it would be an attack on my personal freedom to have to change my consumption habits.

For far too long now, the United States has unfairly become the scapegoat of many of the world's problems. Just because we are the richest, most prosperous country in the world, it shouldn't give other countries the right to come to us asking for money. And just because we have installed fascist governments all over the world, just because we look out for our own interests, we shouldn't have to shoulder the burden of every civil war, much less be held responsible for acts of nature.

Freshmen:

How's your Orientation experience going?

Let us know!

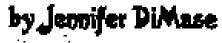
Write a letter or guest column for



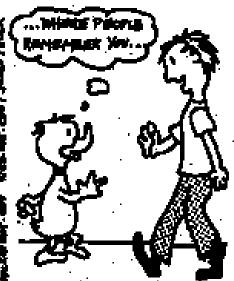
Email <letters@the-tech.mit.edu> or call 253-1541 and ask for Eric or Mike.



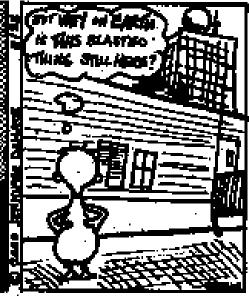
Down with Science



















Fun With Clip Art Aaron Isaksen



"Welcome to MIT, Steven. you know that masturbation can cause your grades to drop?"

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on page 11

Page 7

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

TechCalendar

TechCalendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. The Tech makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and The Tech shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event.

Contact information for all events is available from the TechCalendar web page. Visit and add events online at http://events.mit.edu

Wednesday, August 23

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - seaT. Kinetic sound sculpture by Diane Willow, currently an Artist in Residence at MIT. Her work explores our relationship with nature and technology in the urban environment. free. Room: E15 Lower Level. Sponsor: Office of the Arts, Media Lab, PAKSMIT.

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Amy Cain: Up From Eden. Paintings on wood and canvas. Opening Reception on Thursday, June 22, 5-7pm. free. Room: E52-466, The Dean's Gallery. Sponsor: Sloan School of Man-

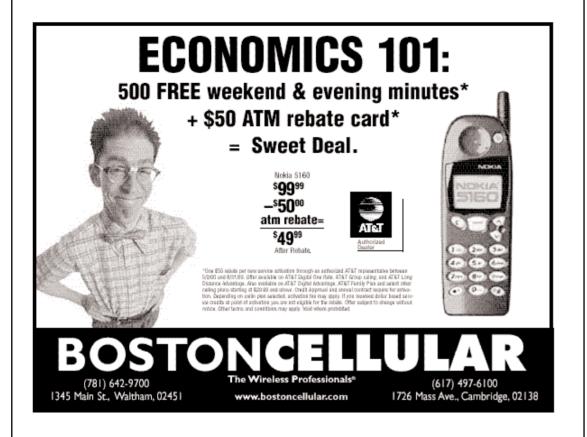
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Flashes of Inspiration: The Work of Harold Edgerton. An interactive exhibition celebrating the life and work of MIT legend Harold . \$5; \$2 students/seniors; \$1 children 5-18; free with MIT ID. Room: MIT Museum, N52 2nd floor. Sponsor: MIT Museum. 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Jump City: Rockin' Jump Blues.. Featuring Kip Bruggeman, Institute Copier Program Manager at the Copy Technology Center. free. Room: Student Center Pavilion. Sponsor: Working Group on Support Staff Issues. Artists Behind the Desk Committee. 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - MacOS Quick Start and Questions. Get started with managing Macintosh applications, files, and folders efficiently. Obtain an overview of new features provided by the newest Mac operating system.. free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Swing lesson. free. Room: Building 34, 3rd floor lobby. Sponsor: MIT Ballroom Dance Team.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. - International Film Club Film Series. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Graduate Student Council, International Film

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - "Survivor Finale" viewing. Join members of the MIT community to watch the final episode of the nation's most talked about television program. Free refreshments will be served. Room: Student Center, 483. Sponsor: The Tech.

FoxTrot by Bill Amend Page 8 THE TECH August 23, 2000



Don't have enough to do during Orientation?

Always wanted to join The Tech, but never had the time?

Come by our office, room 483 of the Student Center, anytime between 11am and 2am and we'll put you to work!

We need help with everything from writing and photography to layout and web design.

We'll even serve you lunch and dinner, courtesy of The Tech!

Want more details before you make the trek to the Student Center? Call Satwik at 253-1541 and let him convince you that helping The Tech put out daily issues is the most exciting way to spend Orientation!

Media Services Technician

PI position provides counter and setup services for media and photography needs, primarily in support of courses and special events. Can didate should have completed a colleged evel photography dass. Good medianical aptitude and strong organizational skills a must. Exp. operating audio-visual equip, and computer literacy is req. Evening and Sat. hrs.vary 24-32 per/wk.

Pleasant working environment, excellent Back Bay location.

Send cover letter and resume to: Boston Architectural Center

Attn: Jada'e Rocha, 320 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02115. Fax (617)

585-0111

jobs@the-bac.edu NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.



THE TECH Page 9 August 23, 2000

City Days Offers Freshmen Glimpse of Life Past MIT

noon will feature Freshmen Explorations, a series of lectures, workshops, and tours of labs designed to introduce freshmen to "out-of-classroom learning opportunities," according to a brochure sent to freshmen.

Next Thursday, freshmen can take part in City Days, sponsored by the MIT Public Service Center. Freshmen will spend the day volunteering at local non-profit orga-

Parents Orientation will occur next Friday and Saturday.

Orientation Center eases arrival

The Orientation Center. located on the second floor of the Stratton Student Center, serves as the welcome center for arriving students as well as the center for orientation information and activities.

'The Orientation Center has

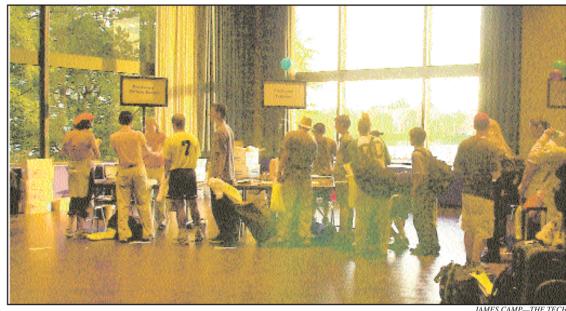
been really well decorated and well run," said Mosehauer.

The situation was relatively quiet at the Orientation Center yesterday afternoon.

"Things are going smoothly," said Orientation worker Christine Lieu '01. "I get all kinds of questions, like 'Where do I eat?' or 'Where's my kid?', but they're all clueless freshmen or worried parents-type questions.

Lieu emphasized that freshmen should seek help if they need it. "If you have any questions, ask," she

Pre-orientation programs, such as the Freshman Leadership Program, mean that many freshmen arrived on campus earlier than usual. Approximately 30 percent had arrived by mid-afternoon yesterday, Lieu said. In addition, all transfer students arrived on campus Tuesday, and all international students arrived Monday.



Class of 2004 newcomers began their MIT experience last night in La Sala de Puerto Rico, gathering orientation materials before moving into temporary housing

Fitness Center Gets OK From Cambridge

MIT will proceed with building the new athletics center on 100 Vassar Street after receiving an Interim

Planning Overlay Proposal (IPOP) permit from the Cambridge Plan-**Briefs** ning Board last Tuesday.

The IPOP permit, required by Cambridge for projects greater than 50,000 square feet, was given to MIT despite an appeal by the attorney for John J. Donovan citing faults in MIT's traffic analysis for the facility. Donovan is the founder of Cambridge Executive Enterprises, a management consulting firm close to the new athletics center.

In February, Cambridge Executive Enterprises appealed MIT's IPOP proposal for the new undergraduate dormitory, also to be built on Vassar Street and scheduled for completion in September 2002. MIT is still resolving that issue with the

The new athletics center will be located between Johnson Athletics Center and Du Pont and is scheduled to be built during the summer of 2002, said Daniel Martin, assistant department head for facilities and operations. Martin said that construction will begin shortly after the Du Pont renovations are complete in the next few weeks.

The facility will include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, international-sized squash courts, a medical treatment area, locker rooms, a multi-purpose room, and laundry facilities.

— Naveen Sunkavally Want to get the word out about

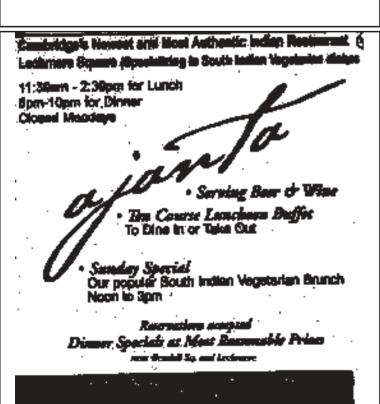
Afraid you'll be lost in the 1,276 events in The Tech's Daily Confusion?

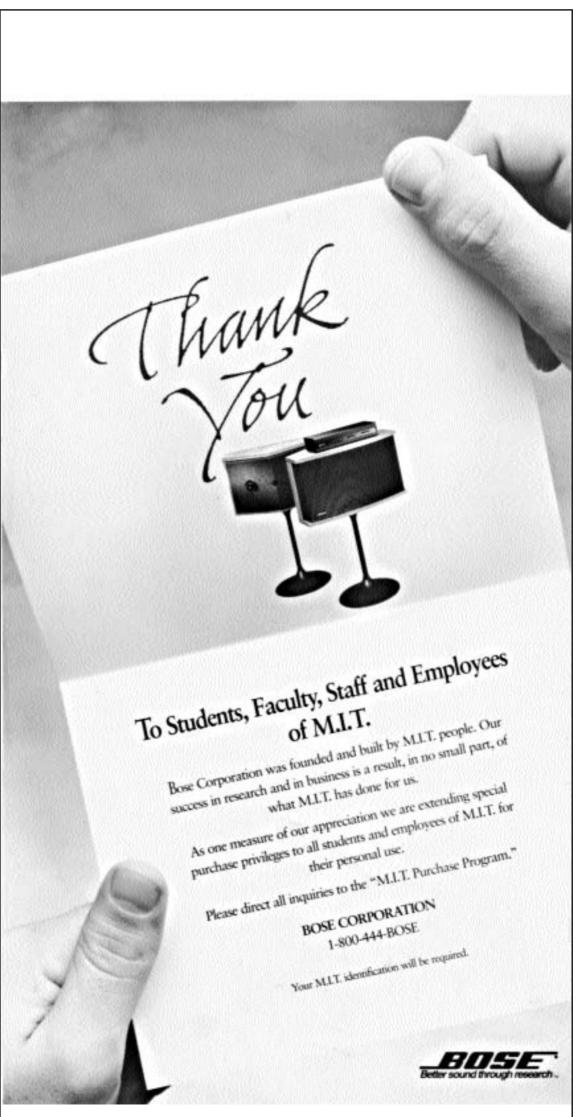
your student or living group?

Then advertise in an Orientation issue of The Tech!

Discounted rates are available for our daily issues, running through Thursday, August 31.

Call our business office at 258-TECH or email <ads@the-tech.mit.edu> for more details.





Page 10 THE TECH August 23, 2000

Cambridge Banks Compete For Student Accounts

Banking, from Page 1

avoid monthly charges of \$14.00 for the checking account and \$3.00 for the savings account.

Basic Checking and Savings accounts are also linked. Basic Checking has a monthly fee of \$3.00 and a limit of twelve withdrawals per month, with a charge of \$2.00 per transaction beyond twelve. Basic Savings has a monthly fee of \$1.00 which can be waived by maintaining a \$100 balance. Customers are limited to six withdrawals per month.

Citizens is online and customers can use web-based banking for free.

Sovereign Bank New England

Sovereign Bank New England arrived in the Boston area during the past year after it purchased Fleet and BankBoston branches as a mandated condition of their merger. The Sovereign branch closest to MIT is located at 515 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square. In Boston, Sovereign has many branches including two on Beacon Street and one in Kenmore Square.

Sovereign offers several checking account options, including Basic Checking and Access Checking. Basic Checking carries a monthly charge of \$2.50 as well as \$0.75 charges for each debit transaction above ten per month. Access Checking is geared toward customers who use electronic banking. It carries a monthly charge of \$6.75 (\$4.75 with direct deposit). There is a charge of \$0.50 for each teller transaction as well as for each check beyond twenty per month.

Basic Statement Savings charges \$1.00 per month if the minimum daily balance drops below \$250. Regular Statement Savings charges \$3.50 per month if the minimum daily balance drops below \$400.

Network fees may be charged

for transactions at non-Sovereign ATMs.

Wainwright Bank

Wainwright
Bank is a local
bank with a
branch located
near the
Kendall
Square T stop.
According to
its website, the
bank "resolves
to be a leading
socially
responsible
bank."

Basic $C\;h\;e\;c\;k\;i\;n\;g$ requires no minimum balance but charges \$1.00 per check over five per month. Value Checking waives the \$3.00 monthly fee and the \$0.25 per check fee if a \$500 minimum balance is maintained or if direct deposit is used.

Basic Savings waives the \$1.00 monthly fee if a minimum balance of \$10.00 is maintained. Statement Savings waives the \$2.50 monthly fee if a minimum balance of \$250 is maintained. Statement Savings offers a slightly higher interest rate than Basic Savings, currently at three percent.

Wainwright Bank does not charge fees for use of non-Wainwright ATMs. Wainwright is also



JAMES CAMP—TE

Cambridge Trust Company (left) and Wainwright Bank (right), both in Kendall Square, provide MIT students with low-fee alternatives to larger banks like Fleet.

part of the SUM network.

Fleet Bank

Fleet has branches in the Stratton Student Center and on Main Street near the Coop. Many students choose to enroll in Fleet's self-service checking account at \$5.00 per month, or \$3.00 per month if direct deposit of paychecks is used.

Self-service checking provides twenty checks per month with a \$0.50 fee for each additional check and unlimited usage of ATM and debit cards. Fleet also offers Visa credit cards. There is a \$2.00 fee for each deposit, withdrawal, or account inquiry made in person or over the phone to a service representative at a Fleet branch or using Fleet telephone banking. A \$50 initial deposit is required to open the account.

A fee of \$4.00 monthly for the Regular Savings accounts can be

waived if the balance is greater than \$500.

Fleet customers can use both web-based and software banking for free, unless bills are paid through the Internet, in which case the fee is \$4.50 per month. The web interface, however, must be requested.

The information presented in the article was gathered from marketing representatives of the respective banks and online research.

Graduate Student Council

Address: 50-220, MIT Phone: 253-2195

e-mail: gsc-request@mit.edu URL: http://web.mit.edu/gsc

Coming soon!!

Graduate Orientation 2000

Main attractions:

Aug. 30^m MIT Library Reception

Aug. 31st Official Welcome and Luncheon & Family Picnic

Sept. 1st Duck Tour around Boston & GSC Orientation Social

Sept. 2nd Hiking Trip to White Mountains

Sept. 3rd Boston Harbor Cruise

Sept. 4th Red Sox Game

Sept. 9th Whale Watch

Come and help make it a grand success!

Contact gac-volunteers@mit.edu or visit http://web.mit.edu/gac for more details in getting involved with all the events.

GSC Calendar

Aug. 23

Housing & Community Affairs
Committee Meeting, 50-220, 05:30pm

Aug. 24

Academics, Research & Careers
Committee Meeting, 50-220, 05:30pm

Ang. 29th - Sept. 1st
Orientation Information Booth,
Lobby 10

August 23, 2000 **THE TECH** Page 11

Lottery To Test How Freshmen Change Preferences

Temporary Housing, from Page 1

Baker's attractiveness to the dorm's entry in the residence guide.

However, Singleton encouraged freshmen "to get around" and visit other dorms. "Obviously a newly renovated dorm designed by a Finnish architect will appeal" to freshmen, Singleton said.

Freshmen will make their final preferences for their permanent housing assignments in a second lottery that will be run on August

Lottery a test for 2002

Phillip M. Bernard, manager of undergraduate residential services, said the summer housing lottery will serve as a test to see how freshmen change their preferences after arriving on campus.

The preferences of last year's freshman class for permanent housing were significantly more evenly distributed than the temporary housing preferences of this year's class. The Class of 2003 ranked MacGregor House as the preferred dorm with 125 first-choice requests and Baker House as second with 120 McCormick, Bernard said. requests.

In previous years, freshmen were assigned their temporary housing assignments randomly.

"I would be surprised if there are fewer complaints this year than in previous years," Bernard said. In previous years, Bernard said that he received almost no complaints.

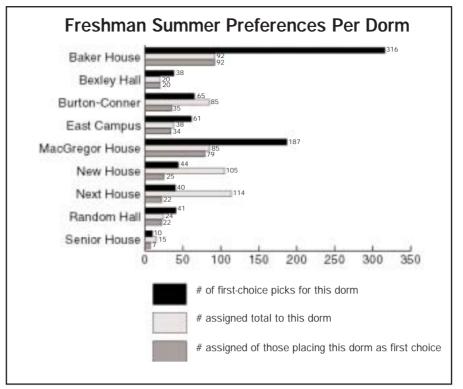
In the end the lottery assigned 592 people, even though 802 people filled out preference forms. The remaining 210 freshmen assigned by hand either because they were arriving early as athletes or as part of a freshman pre-orientation program, or because they had requested housing in Those who did not fill out prefer-

temporary housing spots in another

Freshmen requesting McCormick House were assigned separately because this year McCormick House is participating in a residence-based advising pilot program.

In the future, Bernard said that he would like freshmen to be assigned their permanent housing assignments through a summer housing lottery. Then, if freshmen had complaints, they would participate in another lottery that would relocate them to another dorm. This plan is expected to take effect in 2002, when all freshmen are expected to be housed on campus.

In addition, in the future, freshmen are expected to be given a more interactive introduction to residences over the summer, rather than this year's residence booklet. One of the projects sponsored under Project I-Campus, MIT's alliance with Microsoft Corporation, calls for creating CD-ROM and webbased resources concerning freshman academics and student life to provide incoming freshmen with more detailed information prior to their arrival on campus.



Café, Retail Use To **Improve Grad Dorm**

Graduate Dorm, from Page 1

lor Henrietta Davis pointed out that the 300 parking spaces might lead to commuter traffic. She said that MIT should make sure that none of the parking spaces is used for commuters. Following last night's meeting, Davis said that MIT had made strides toward addressing parking concerns

To alleviate concern about open space, Owu said that the new plan will increase open space within the dorm's courtyard and will set the main building back twenty feet from the street.

In accord with Cambridge's desire to increase nighttime usage of the University Park area, the new plan proposes creating a retail area on the dormitory's ground level, with outdoor café-style seating along the Sidney Street sidewalk. Owu said that MIT currently has no potential clients for the retail space, but that it was interested in increasing activity in the area.

Board member William Tibbs expressed concern regarding MIT's plans for retail space, stating that Cambridgeport had "been burned before ... by grand promises of retail in the area.

To distinguish the dorm from the plain University Park buildings, Owu said that the Institute would change the texture for the dorm's exterior brick surface and add bay windows and French balconies to the design. Owu added that the height of the dorm's Sidney Street side would be reduced from six floors to five. The Sidney Street side was of the greatest importance to Cambridgeport residents because it faces residences and green space.

Geneva Malenfant, a Cambridgeport resident and a former resident of Westgate, criticized MIT for taking unnecessarily from Cambridge without giving back to the

community. Malenfant encouraged MIT to release several extraneous plots gained from the 1971 Simplex parcel purchase to local non-profit organizations for conversion to lowcost housing.

"There's no institutional use for these plots," Malenfant said. "It's difficult for MIT students to pay for housing, but think of how it is for those without a lot of money.' Malenfant also added that housing costs were a temporary hardship for MIT students, but a lifelong hardship for Cambridgeport's poor

Poor communication irks residents

Cambridgeport residents, upset with the dorm's location in Cambridgeport, criticized MIT for its sudden announcement of building plans earlier this month.

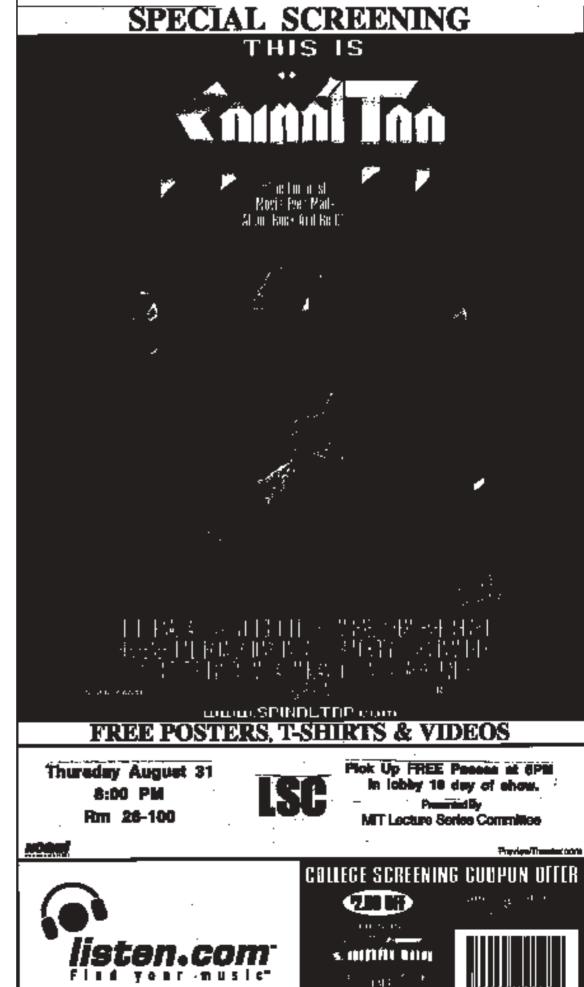
While praising MIT for responding to community concerns, the Board also criticized the Institute for not providing its master plan of future dormitory construction. To meet its goal of housing fifty percent of graduate students in Institute housing, MIT will probably need to build at least one additional dorm within the next few years.

Board member Tibbs admonished Owu and other members of MIT's application team for not being fully open with the Board.

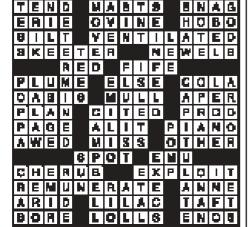
"It's critically important that you share your plans, especially if you intend to go further into Cambridgeport," Tibbs said.

Board chairperson Larissa Brown echoed Tibbs's criticism, adding that several drawings provided by MIT were "difficult to follow, unclear ... with some incorrect drawings." As an example, Brown cited one drawing where the arrow pointing north was drawn incorrect-

Frank Dabek and Naveen Sunkavally contributed to the reporting of this article.



Solution to Crossword on page 6



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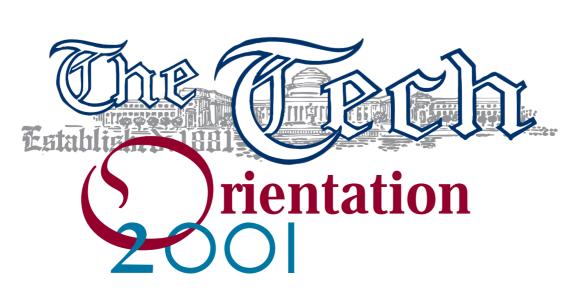
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